



Statuette of a standing baboon

On display

Title/Description: Statuette of a standing baboon

Measurements: h. 79 x w. 18 x d. 27 mm

Accession Number: 614

Historic Period: Late Period (c. 650 BC)

Production Place: Africa, Egypt

Credit Line: Purchased with support from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1975

This baboon, sacred to Thoth, the god of wisdom, appears to be female. It stands with left foot advanced on a podium, its arms held to its sides, the backs of the paws facing to the front. The long tail falls vertically behind to terminate in a bend behind the right foot. On the rump are represented the naked ischial callosities which are present in nature; the rest of the figure, including cheek and tail, is marked by a series of short striations to indicate hair. Around the waist is a knotted belt. On the back is a striated and perforated suspension lug, showing that it could have been suspended as a pendant around the neck. The surface is coated with a shiny blue-green glaze.

Entry taken from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection 3 volume catalogue, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997).

Provenance

Purchased by the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia from Peter Sharrer in 1975 out of funds provided by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury.
